

Rep. Louise M. Slaughter (NY-28), Chairwoman of the House Committee on Rules and Co-Chair of the Congressional Arts Caucus, announced \$117,500 in federal funds that have been awarded to arts groups in Western New York that will directly benefit local writers, musicians, dancers and artists.

“I’m so pleased to see federal funds going to Western New York’s talented musicians, dancers, writers and artists,” said Slaughter. “The arts deserve our full support and I am proud to have fought for fully funding vital arts programs in this country. The arts are a very positive stimulator of the local economy and generate billions in economic activity annually. The arts are also an incredible educational tool, and have the ability to uniquely enrich our lives and strengthen our cultural diversity.”

In Rochester, \$65,000 has been awarded to the Garth Fagan Dance Company, BOA Editions and the Arts and Cultural Council for Greater Rochester which will help arts and cultural programs across the 10-county greater Rochester region.

BOA editions will use the \$25,000 awarded to produce and promote new works of poetry and fiction while the \$15,000 for the Garth Fagan Dance Company will allow the group more touring opportunities.

In Buffalo, the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra and Center for Exploratory and Perceptual Arts will together benefit from \$52,500 in federal funds that will support the new exhibition “Art of War” and allow the BPO to premiere a new percussion concerto.

The funding will be provided by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts as part of their first major round of FY 2010 grants.

Background

As Co-Chair of the Congressional Arts Caucus, Slaughter is a national leader in the fight to fully fund the arts. Most recently, she helped secure \$50 million for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act which supported the preservation of jobs threatened by declines in philanthropic and other support during the current economic downturn.

Each year, the arts industry generates \$166.2 billion in economic activity, and provides 5.7 million full-time jobs. Every dollar of NEA grant money also leverages at least seven dollars from other state, local, and private sources. Few other federal investments have such a widespread impact and magnifying effect across the entire nation.

Grantees

Arts Organization

Funds Awarded

Arts & Cultural Council for Greater Rochester, Inc.

\$25,000

To support a cultural planning process for the 10-county greater Rochester region.

BOA Editions, Ltd.

\$25,000

To support the production, promotion, and related expenses for new volumes of poetry and fiction.

Garth Fagan Dance, Inc.

\$15,000

To support the expansion of touring opportunities.

Rochester-Area Total

\$65,000

Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra Society, Inc.

\$22,500

To support the premiere of a new percussion concerto by composer Eric Ewazen and related education

Center for Exploratory and Perceptual Arts

\$30,000

To support the exhibition Art of War.

Buffalo Total

\$52,500

Total NEA Funding to the 28th District

\$117,500